ABSTRACT

A system and method that provides for protection of a CPU of a router, by establishing a management port on a router. Hosts which are connected to a non-management ports of the router are denied access to management functions of a CPU of the router. The system and method can utilize an application specific integrated circuit, in conjunction with a CAM-ACL, which analyzes data packets received on the ports of router, and the ASIC operates to drop data packets which are directed to the CPU of the router. This system and method operates to filter data packets which may be generated in attempts to hack in to control functions of a network device, and the operation does not require that the CPU analyze all received data packets in connection with determining access to the control functions of the router.